

measure of devotion to his nation while serving in Iraq: Army Sgt. Joe Garza of Robstown, Texas.

Robstown, my hometown also, is the biggest little town in Texas and we all felt this loss deeply. Army 1st Sgt. Joe Garza, 43, died on April 28 in Baghdad while serving in the war with Iraq.

He was a role model for young people growing up in Robstown, serving even as a surrogate father to others in his family and his community. He enjoyed his family and his friends. He made them laugh, and played games with them.

He left Robstown and Texas to make a life in the military, where he served honorably in Ft. Stewart, Georgia. So the memories of Joe in Robstown were as a student, a classmate, a son and a Cotton Picker, the mascot of Robstown High School.

The memories of Sgt. Garza in Robstown were that he was a good man that fought for justice all of his life. His service in the military was just one more step in this lifelong philosophy. He wanted to bring justice to the world. We find some level of comfort knowing he died bringing peace to the people of Iraq.

We also know that our way of life in the United States and the free world is possible because of our military and those who comprise it—men like Sgt. Joe Garza.

Sgt. Garza is survived by—and lives on in the minds of—his family: his wife of 24 years, Mary Garza, their children, Joe, Jr., John Paul, and Myra Ann, and his mother, Enes Garza, of Robstown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the life and service of Sgt. Joe Garza, and in expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family.

TRIBUTE TO THE 110TH FIGHTER WING OF THE MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the brave men and women of the 110th Fighter Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard as they returned this past Saturday from a successful completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Often overlooked, our National Guard personnel provide an invaluable service to our country and to our Armed Forces. The men and women of the 110th Fighter Wing have shown the utmost courage, traveling a world away to help remove a threat to civilization. These folks made a great sacrifice, departing from families, careers, and livelihoods to preserve our way of life. Because of their sacrifices, the Hussein regime is gone and our world is a more secure place. Freedom isn't free; it comes at a price—and individuals like these are the ones who bear the cost. I wish them well as they are reunited with their families and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF FATHER FLOYD LOTITO

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special friend of the City of San Francisco Reverend Floyd Alfonso Joseph Lotito. Father Lotito is being recognized by the San Francisco Forum as the "San Franciscan of the Year" for his lifetime of service and advocacy for poor and homeless people. A devoted educator, social activist, and spiritual leader, Father Lotito epitomizes San Francisco's most cherished values.

Born and raised in Southern California, Father Lotito began his theological training in 1949, eventually becoming an ordained priest at Old Mission Santa Barbara in 1960. He earned Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sacred Theology degrees before joining St. Mary's Parish of Stockton, California in 1961. He came to San Francisco in 1968, where he became Associate Pastor for St. Boniface Parish and St. Anthony Parish, the same position he holds today. Father Lotito later received a Master of Arts in Speech and Communication degree and a Lifetime California Standard Teaching Credential.

Father Lotito has kept learning his entire life, most recently conducting research in theology, psychology, sociology, education, speech, and counseling. He has taught many subjects at the high school, college, and graduate school levels. He excelled as a theatre director and forensics coach, taking his students to the state competition level.

Father Lotito served in a number of parishes in California, Oregon, and Wisconsin before coming to San Francisco, but it was at St. Anthony's that he found his home. The St. Anthony Foundation provides social services and resources in the neighborhood of St. Boniface Church, an area that is home to the poor, the sick, and a burgeoning immigrant population. St. Anthony's Dining Room serves 2,000 meals a day, 365 days a year. Father Lotito has served in many capacities at St. Anthony's including Deputy Executive Director, Director of Public Relations, Director of the Dining Room and Chaplain. His work there has earned him our eternal admiration and gratitude.

Father Lotito's efforts to combat poverty and homelessness have received local, national and international recognition. He has addressed numerous audiences, including President Clinton and members of Congress, concerning poverty at home and abroad. In 1984, he delivered the benediction at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco. He has helped develop a number of charity and volunteer organizations through the church and the community and serves as spiritual advisor to many community groups.

A Franciscan friar, Father Lotito believes in blessing all of God's creations. Many look forward to the "Blessing of the Animals" he holds every year in our city of St. Francis. He also delights us with an annual blessing of the City's taxicab drivers. These wonderful rituals are just a small part of what make him a true San Francisco treasure.

I am proud to join the San Francisco Forum as well as his friends, family, and loved ones

in saluting Father Lotito and to congratulate him on being named the "San Franciscan of the Year."

TRIBUTE TO REV. M. MASON WALKER

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. JIM DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rev. M. Mason Walker, a prominent civil rights activist in Florida and the beloved pastor of St. James AME Church, who lost his battle with cancer last week.

Raised in Dade City, Florida, Rev. Walker was only a teenager when he began speaking out for equal rights. In the mid 1960s, he joined other African-American students in integrating Pasco High School and was instrumental in organizing the Great Pasco County NAACP Youth Organization.

Unafraid to fight for his beliefs, in 1964, Rev. Walker walked into the segregated Crest Restaurant in Dade City and demanded service. When asked to leave, he bravely said "When I'm finished eating, I will leave."

After moving to St. Petersburg, Rev. Walker continued his leadership in the civil rights movement. In 1973, Rev. Walker went to court to contest a provision in the City of St. Petersburg's charter which denied him a slot on the ballot for St. Petersburg City Council because he was not a property owner. Thanks to his efforts, the provision was ruled unconstitutional.

Rev. Walker was an active member in the St. Petersburg chapter of the NAACP and a member of the executive board. He also served as Commissioner on the St. Petersburg Housing Authority Board, chairman of the Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission, board member of the Tampa Bay Holocaust Memorial Museum and Educational Center, as well as member of the Pinellas County Millennium Committee, the Community Alliance, Fair Housing Board, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, United Way advisory board, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

However, the members at St. James AME Church and Moore's Chapel AME Church, where he served as pastor, will best remember Rev. Walker for his selfless dedication to his congregations.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay area, I extend my deepest sympathies to all his friends and family. Rev. Walker's fight for equality will never be forgotten.

L-1 VISA REFORM

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill which seeks to close a loophole in immigration law by prohibiting the outsourcing of L-1 intracompany transferee visa holders, similar to a provision contained in the H-1B visa program.

The L-1 visa allows companies with subsidiaries abroad the ability to transfer employees